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DOCKET NO. K06-159678M/TBS

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. The specification and claims 6 and 8-17 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1, 3, and 8 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13-15, and 17 are allowed.

I. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that claims 6, 10, 12, and 16 are indefinite. While Applicant submits that such would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow them to know the metes and bounds of the invention, taking the present Application as a whole, to speed prosecution claims 6 and 9-17 have been amended to correct their dependencies.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this

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rejection.

II. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Office Action objects to the specification. In particular, the Office Action alleges that page 3, line 16 includes the word "revers" and requests correction. However, Applicant's copy of page 3, line 16 does not include the word "revers." Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner's copy of page 3 of the present specification must be of poor quality. Therefore, for the Examiner's convenience. Applicant encloses a copy of page 3 of the specification as originally filed, which does not include the alleged error.

Regarding the reference to claim numbers in the specification, this Amendment amends the specification in accordance with Examiner Bonck's very helpful suggestion. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 9-17, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

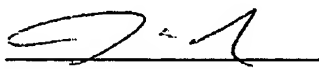
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

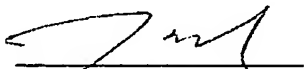
Date: 5/31/05


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Rodney H. Bonck, Group Art Unit 3681 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 31st day of May 2005.


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